

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US/EC COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: (A) STATE 163429, (B) BRUSSELS 10435

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1. SUMMARY: DR. E. G. KOVACH, OES/APT, AND MISSION OFFICER MET WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL SCHUSTER AND SEVERAL OTHER SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS OF DG XII -- RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION -- ON JULY 18-19 REGARDING DETAILS OF THE EC'S NON-ENERGY, NON-NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (REFS B AND C) IN ORDER TO ASSIST US AGENCIES IN DECIDING WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE FOR POSSIBLE COLLABORATION (REF A). THIS OBJECTIVE WAS ONLY PARTIALLY ACHIEVED SINCE MANY OF THE EC PROGRAMS ARE AT A BEGINNING STAGE AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THEM REMAIN GENERAL. HOWEVER, THE VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DEMONSTRATING US INTEREST AND PURPOSEFULNESS IN STRENGTHENING US/EC COOPERATION IN
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. KOVACH PROVIDED DESCRIPTIONS AND MATERIALS ON RELEVANT PROGRAMS OF NSF, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (BUREAU OF MINES AND US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN PARTICULAR), NIH, AND OTA, WHICH MAY LEND THEMSELVES TO COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS ONCE EC PLANS MATURE. THE INITIATIVE IS NOW BACK WITH THE EC TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROJECTS WHERE COOPERATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. IN THE FINAL SESSION,

KOVACH AND SCHUSTER AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF NAMING LIAISON OFFICERS FOR THREE AREAS APPARENTLY READY FOR EARLY INITIATIVES, I.E. PRIMARY RAW MATERIALS, MEDICAL, AND RESEARCH IN FORECASTING TECHNOLOGY. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECTOR-GENERAL SCHUSTER OPENED THE TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH DG OFFICE DIRECTORS BY IDENTIFYING: (A) AREAS IN WHICH HE BELIEVED US/EC COLLABORATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE NOW (PRIMARY RAW MATERIALS, MEDICAL RESEARCH, FORECASTING TECHNOLOGY); (B) FIELDS WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT BE FOUND IN THE NEAR FUTURE (RESEARCH EVALUATION STUDIES); AND (C) THOSE WHICH COULD BE RESERVED FOR FUTURE ATTENTION (CLIMATOLOGY, SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS, ENZYME RESEARCH-RECOMBINANT DNA). HE AGREED THAT THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS IN MAY (REF B) PROVIDED THE HIGH-LEVEL REAFFIRMATION FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS COULD NOW BE DEVELOPED WITH THE US/EC CONSULTATION MECHANISM SERVING TO MONITOR GENERAL PROGRESS. AT THE FINAL, WRAP-UP SESSION, KOVACH CONCURRED WITH SCHUSTER ON THE CONCEPT OF NAMING LIAISON OFFICERS FOR EACH OF THE THREE AREAS CITED IN (A) ABOVE AS READY FOR PROMPT INITIATIVES. FOR THE US SIDE, KOVACH SUGGESTED DR. JOSEPH QUINN OF THE NIH FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER AS A CONTACT FOR DR. FERNARD VAN HOECK, IN CHARGE OF EC MEDICAL RESEARCH. UNTIL SUITABLE US SPECIALISTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED, KOVACH WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH MR. PHILIPPE BOURDEAU, IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHARGE OF RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH, AND WITH MR. CRAIG SINCLAIR, WHO WILL BE DIRECTING THE EC FORECASTING PROGRAM (KNOWN AS FAST).

3. DG XII OFFICIALS PROVIDED DETAILS CONCERNING THEIR PROGRAMS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS WHERE EARLY COLLABORATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE:

A. RAW MATERIALS: THE COMMISSION RECEIVED SOME 200 PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO A MAY 1978 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS MULTI-ANNUAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR RAW MATERIALS (REF D). DECISIONS ON PROPOSED CONTRACTS WILL BE MADE IN OCTOBER, AFTER WHICH THE EC WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO SEEK TIES WITH COMPLEMENTARY US WORK. PHILIPPE BOURDEAU, IN CHARGE OF RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH, ALSO NOTED SEVERAL STUDIES, UNDER CREST AUSPICES, IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETION, E.G. TECHNICAL DOSSIERS ON NON-FERROUS METALS, RECYCLING STUDIES INCLUDING ANALYTICAL DATA IN PRODUCT LIFETIMES, A SUBSTITUTION STUDY FOR SILVER, TIN, TUNGSTEN, CHROMIUM, AND A "DESIGN FOR RECOVERY" STUDY. WOOD WOULD ALSO BE EXAMINED BECAUSE OF EC IMPORTS OF WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS (LARGELY PULP AND PAPER) AMOUNT-

ING TO \$8 - 10 BILLION A YEAR.

KOVACH SUGGESTED THREE POSSIBLE MODES OF COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. ONE IS AN EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL BETWEEN EC AND FACILITIES OF THE US BUREAU OF MINES, THE US GEOLOGICAL SERVICE, AND/OR THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT. ANOTHER IS TO HAVE THE EC PARTICIPATE IN A US BUREAU OF MINES PILOT PLANT PROJECT (EXTRACTION OF ALUMINA FROM NON-BAUXITIC SOURCES). THIRDLY, THE EC MIGHT WISH TO CARRY OUT SURVEYS OF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY R & D IN THE MATERIALS FIELD, USING DEFINITIONS, COMPUTER PROGRAMS, ETC. DESIGNED FOR RECENT US SURVEYS.

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B. MEDICAL RESEARCH: THE THREE PROGRAMS DESCRIBED IN REF C (CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES, CELLULAR AGING, AND EXTRA-CORPOREAL OXYGENATION) HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE EC COUNCIL, AND EACH HAS A PROJECT LEADER AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE. AGAIN, IT WILL BE MID-FALL BEFORE THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS ARE IDENTIFIED AND WORK BEGINS. DR. VAN HOECK, IN CHARGE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, NOTED FIVE OTHER SUBJECT AREAS (ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM; DETECTION OF TENDENCY TOWARD THROMBOSIS; EVALUATION, UNDERSTANDING AND TREATMENT OF DEAFNESS; CRITERIA FOR PRENATAL MONITORING; AND STANDARDS FOR QUANTITATIVE ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAPHY) WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL IN THE FALL, WITH IMPLEMENTATION TO START IN THE SPRING 1979. DR. VAN HOECK SEES OPPORTUNITIES FOR USEFUL EXCHANGE WITH THE US IN ALL OF THESE AREAS, SEEKING COMMON DATA DEFINITION, EXCHANGING RESEARCH RESULTS, ETC. INTEREST WAS ALSO EXPRESSED IN WORK ON CARCINOGENIC ASPECTS OF TRITIUM AND ON RECOMBINANT DNA EXPERIMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY.

KOVACH TOLD VAN HOECK OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH NIH OFFICIALS, THE INTEREST GENERATED SO FAR, AND THE NEED FOR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON VARIOUS PROJECTS. HE ENCOURAGED HIM TO VISIT NIH OFFICIALS, WITH DR. QUINN SERVING AS A FOCAL POINT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN THESE AREAS.

C. FORECASTING TECHNOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT: CRAIG SINCLAIR WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE EC'S FAST PROGRAM (FORECASTING AND ASSESSMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON JULY 25. WITH A PROJECTED BUDGET OF ABOUT \$5 MILLION AND A SMALL STAFF OF SIX PROFESSIONALS, THE FAST PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY THE EC'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. EMPHASIS WILL BE ON: SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT OF FORECASTING METHODOLOGIES; RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS RESULTING FROM DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES AND CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE; AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EC POLICIES IN HEALTH, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRANSPORT. MR. SINCLAIR SUGGESTED AN EC/US CONFERENCE OR SYMPOSIUM IN 1979 OR 1980 TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES IN THIS AREA.

KOVACH POINTED OUT THAT THE FOCUS OF THE EC'S FAST PROGRAM DOES NOT EXACTLY MATCH SIMILAR WORK DONE IN THE US BUT AGREED TO TRY TO IDENTIFY COUNTERPART PROJECTS.

4. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS: EC OFFICIALS ALSO GAVE A PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF PROSPECTIVE PROJECTS IN AREAS OF RESEARCH EVALUATION, THE INTERACTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON EUROPEAN SOCIETY (THE ESIST PROJECT), CLIMATOLOGY, AND SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS (RECYCLING). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTER PROGRAMS PROVIDED A REVIEW OF JOINT US/JRC ACTIVITIES.

5. COMMENT: MR. SCHUSTER'S DESIRE AND ENTHUSIASM FOR EXPANDED US/EC COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPEARS TO BE MOTIVATED BY HIS RECOGNITION THAT THE EC'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MUST NOT PROCEED IN ISOLATION FROM IMPORTANT WORK BEING CARRIED OUT ELSEWHERE. HE SEEMS SOMEWHAT AHEAD OF HIS STAFF IN CONCEPTUALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF EXPANDED US/EC COOPERATION. THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT EC ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA IS IMPORTANT, WILL EXPAND, AND IS OF INTEREST TO THE US -- FULLY JUSTIFYING THE EFFORT NEEDED TO SELECT SUITABLE PROJECTS AND TO ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY WORKING LEVEL LINKS FOR COLLABORATION. HINTON

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